Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 SP-02 RSC-01 /038 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC EPAP PINS CB

SUBJECT: KC SUSPEND RUBBER TRADE

- 1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THERE HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN KC ECONOMIC AND SUPPLY OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE MEKONG ABOVE PHNOM PENH AND RUBBER COMPANIES AND TRADERS IN THE CAPITAL, MOSTLY FRENCH. UNDER THESE ARRANGEMENTS, CIVIL CONVOYS HAVE TRANSPORTED RAW RUBBER FROM KC-HELD TERRITORY DOWNSTREAM TO PHNOM PENH FOR EVENTUAL EXPORT AFTER PROCESSING, IN RETURN FOR SOME CASH AND A VARIETY OF NONMILITARY PRODUCTS, WHICH ARE SHIPPED UPSTREAM TO THE KC. THE ARRANGEMENT OBVIOUSLY HAS TO HAVE SPECIFIC PRIOR APPROVAL OF FANK AND OF THE KC FOR EACH CONVOY IN EACH DIRECTION.
- 2. SINCE DECEMBER 27 THE FRENCH HAVE NOT BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION BY FANK FOR AN UPSTREAM CONVOY. THEY HAVE NOW RECEIVED A LETTER DATED JANUARY 26 FR A KC EASTERN REGION GRUNK ECONOMIC REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCING THE DECISION BY GRUNK TO HALT, FOR THE TIME BEING, RUBBER SHIPMENTS TO PHNOM PENH, AND ASKING THE FRENCH COMPANY TO MAKE UP THE CURRENT BALANCE ON THEIR ACCOUNT BY SHIPPING THE GOODS PROMISED.
- 3. COMMENT: THE OBSTACLE IS UNDOUBTEDLY ON THE GKR/FANK SIDE WHICH, GIVEN THE INTENSITY OF THE CURRENT KC DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN, IS NOT ALTOGETHER SURPRISING. CONFIDENTIAL

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| N | /largaret P. | Grafeld Decla | assified/Relea | ased US Dep | partment of S | State EO Syst | tematic Revie | w 05 JUL 2006 |
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

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